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Docket No.: P/61149

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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July 21, 2003
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In re: Application of : Ghani Abdul Muttalib ABBAS

Serial No. : 09/144,782 Group Art Unit: 2666

Filed : September 1, 1998 Examiner: D. T. Ton

For : DATA TRANSMISSION IN AN SDH NETWORK

New York, New York
July 21, 2003

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated March 20, 2003, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected at section 1 of the Office Action that the invention of claim 80 is known from the following parts of ITU-T G.707 of 03/96:

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I. Fig. 8-8/G.707, Sections 8.1.7.1, 9.3.1.6, 10.2.1, 10.2.

However, the structure identified by the Examiner is not the virtually concatenated structure of the present invention but the known contiguously concatenated structure referred to in the introduction to the present application.

Section 9.3 defines conventional applications of POH bits for known contiguously concatenated structures. That these are *contiguously* concatenated structures is clear from the fact that the concatenation is achieved by modifying the pointer (see section 8.1.7.1, line 2 at page 42).

It is also apparent from the nomenclature used in sections 8.1.7.1 and 9.3: VC-4-Xc being used by the ITU-T to denote *contiguously* concatenation whereas virtually concatenation is denoted by -Xv. The Examiner refers to the description of the H4 bit at section 9.3.1.6 but this only addresses its use for the indication of payload position. No teaching can be found in G.707 of the use of POH to support virtual concatenation by indicating frame sequence.

II. Fig. 10-13/G.707 and Section 10.2.3:

Both virtual and contiguous concatenated structures are referred to but no details are given of how concatenation is achieved. It is acknowledged in the introduction to the present application that the concept of virtual concatenation is not new. The inventor advantageously provides a practical implementation of virtual concatenation that was not known before and is not found in G.707.

The objections to the dependent claims are moot in view of the above distinction of claim 80 from the cited prior art. For completeness, however, it is pointed out that:

Fig. 6-1/G.707 merely indicates the conventional aligning of a virtual container (VC-3 or VC-4) into an administrative unit (AU-3 or AU-4). This aligning step involves the addition of

a pointer to indicate the start of the single VC within the AU. This is entirely different from the alignment required in virtual concatenation in which each of a plurality of concatenated VCs needs to be aligned with the other of the plurality of concatenated VCs.

Fig. C-2/G.707 shows the combination of four STM-1 frames into one STM-4 frame. This is not concatenation but multiplexing. Here multiplexing is the combining of a plurality of signals onto a single path or information channel. Concatenation is the distribution of a single signal, between a plurality of data structures where the bandwidth of a single one of the data structures is insufficient for the signal.

Fig. 10-19/G.707 shows a conventional VC-2 multiframe. No concatenation is shown here.

Section 8.3.8; Figs. 8-13 and 8-14/G.707 describe the use of the H4 byte for multiframe indication. This has nothing to do with concatenation. The conventional, lower-order VC (e.g. VC-12, VC2) are organized in a multiframe of 4 successive frames. The H4 byte is conventionally used to indicate the first frame of a multiframe and that is what is being described here. This is illustrated by Figs. 8-13 and 8-14/G.707.

Section 9.3.1.1. describes the use of the J1 byte for access point identification, of conventional VCs: there is no reference to concatenation of any type. The use of J1 for indicating the order of a concatenated VC is not found here.

In all the various sections of G.707 referred to by the Examiner, only one section actually relates to Virtual Concatenation. Virtual Concatenation is mentioned at Fig. 10-13/G.707 and in section 10.2.3 but no implementation details are given.

Contiguously concatenated structures are acknowledged as being known in the art in the introduction to the present application. It is also acknowledged there that the concept of virtual

concatenation is not new. What was missing before and is provided by the inventor is a practical
★ implementation of virtual concatenation as provided by the present claims.

Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to July 21, 2003. A check in the amount of \$110.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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